

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2002 - 7:30 P.M.**

Present: Chairman B. Miranda

Director: Nava Niv-Vogel

**Board Members Present: M. L. Ahearn, J. Bruschi, J. Cantor, E. Hamann,
J. Horner, H. Kazarian, T. Morabito, P. Solomon**

Absent: V. Falvey, E. Finnegan

The minutes of the October 7, 2002 meeting were approved as written.

SPRINGWELL (formerly WSES) (Board meeting October 24, 2002)

Phyl Solomon reported that the presentation of the 2002 financial statements showed that Springwell is judged very healthy financially although there has been a slight deficit in 2002. This has been offset by a reduction in liabilities. Close monitoring of the financial status in the upcoming year will be essential.

Springwell has officially moved into its new building, with the finishing touches being done. There will be an Open House on 11/19/02 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. The Secretary of Elder Affairs will attend. All are welcome.

New by-law changes will allow all officers to serve a maximum of three one-year terms. The slate of officers was presented and will be voted on at the November annual meeting.

The Director reported that the Self-directed Care Program now has 6 clients in the Program and 4 in the process of becoming part of it. The Community Choice Program is a demonstration program (signed off by the Governor) that identifies elders at immediate risk of NH placement. If appropriate, they receive \$1300/month to pay for certified home services, adult day health, etc. This is in addition to their normal reimbursement, would be less costly than a nursing home and allow seniors to stay in their homes longer. State training has begun for ASAP providers to carry out this program.

Springwell has received an award from their grantor for the Work Community Independence program for persons over 60, who are cognitively challenged and are moving from a nursing home to community homes.

Kathy Stimson reported that the use of the Busy Bee and SCM services has been much higher in the past years. It was voted by the board to raise the voluntary donation from \$3 to \$4 for Busy Bee and from \$3.50 to \$4 for SCM. Belmont members of the board questioned why Belmont elders cannot use SCM to go to appointments in Somerville but Somerville elders can use SCM to go to Belmont. Kathy will look into it and update Nava Niv-Vogel.

The Public Hearing was held at the Brookline Senior Center on September 19th. The hearing focussed on barriers to health care and other related issues. It was well attended.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - October 2002

SCM: Nava spoke with Kathy Simpson from Springwell regarding services to Somerville for Belmont seniors. There appear to be too few people in Belmont requiring these services. A request has been made to track the number of people needing rides. If the results demonstrate a significant number, additional services will be considered.

Budget Issues: Mel Kleckner informed Nava that there probably will be cuts to the Budget in 2003. Barbara Miranda, Nava Niv-Vogel, Pat Bruschi and Joyce Monroe met to go over the status of the gift account. All town accounts are being standardized, therefore as of next year the gift account will be closed. When the new COA budget is submitted cost projections for new programs, existing programs, and other possible expenses must be included. In addition a list must be submitted for all programs funded by grants. Subsidies may be included.

Friends of the Senior Center met on October 28, 2002. It was decided to do a town wide membership drive. A list of 40 or more people has been identified as potential donors to fund this large mailing. Individual committees will continue to meet as needed.

Maintenance Issues: There is continued concern about the inadequacy of custodial coverage at the senior center. This is especially true in the fall (fallen acorns & leaves on paths) and in the winter (snow and ice). Nava will meet with Kevin Looney to discuss these concerns and to stress the need for increased services.

Transportation Report: Due to the difficulty in accumulating the month's statistics in time for the current board meeting, it was voted to present the data at the following month's board meeting instead.

Staff Retreat: The annual staff retreat will take place on Friday, November 8, 2002. The staff will spend some time discussing what their vision is for the new senior center.

OLD BUSINESS:

Barbara Miranda stated that the postponed Town Meeting would most likely be held in January 2003. The Friends of the COA will organize the making of informational calls to all Town Meeting members once the date and articles are set.

A list is being generated of those who wish to help with the calling.

NEW BUSINESS:

By-law Committee Report: Jack Kantor presented his committee's preliminary By-law suggestions regarding the election of board officers. The board discussed these with the following suggestions made:

- The Board chair will appoint 5 members to the nominating committee. They can be any member exclusive of the current chair.
- The nominating committee will present their nominations at the September board meeting.
- Elections will take place at the October board meeting. (Nominations will be taken from the floor at that time)
- The order of nominations for offices is:
 - Secretary (may be more than one)
 - Treasurer (1)
 - Vice Chair (1)
 - Chair (1)
- Term limits: Two terms of one-year each for each officer

It was decided that it would be appropriate for the committee to see if there is a template available for all town committees as to the make up of a nominating committee. A follow-up report will be made at the December board meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyl Solomon